

# CONNECTED

July 2005



## Simple Preparations Can Make Back-to-School Time Easier for Everyone

Whether or not you have school age children, the start of school will usually have an impact on many of your everyday activities. But with a little advance planning, you can keep your daily routine running smoothly when school begins and take advantage of legislation designed to save consumers money on sales taxes.



First, mark **August 10** and **August 15** on your calendar. In Cobb County Schools classes resume on August 10, and Marietta City Schools begin classes again on August 15. If you have a student attending class in Marietta City Schools or Cobb County Public Schools, make sure you have them fully outfitted and ready for school on the correct day.

If you have a student changing from elementary to middle school or middle to high school, check [www.marietta-city.k12.ga.us](http://www.marietta-city.k12.ga.us) or [www.cobb.k12.ga.us](http://www.cobb.k12.ga.us) for dates of orientations and other newcomer information that will help you and your students make a smooth transition. You should also check these sites if you suspect that redistricting may have affected your child's school assignment. The opening of the new

Sawyer Road Elementary



School in northeast Marietta will affect some students who attended Lockheed Elementary School or Pine Forest Elementary School.

If you don't have a child in school, you will still do yourself a favor if you remember that school buses and other school-related traffic will be back on the road on August 10. Allow yourself extra time when traveling in the morning before school starts, and during afternoon hours when classes let out for the day. If possible, schedule other errands during the hours when school is in session.

Finally, you should mark

**July 28 through 31** on your calendar

whether you have a child attending school or not. The next Sales Tax Holiday arrives that weekend. Regulators say this year's holiday will have the same rules as last year's, with no limit on the number of standard clothing items

a consumer can purchase without paying sales tax. Legislators also included sporting clothing and shoes on the exempt list, although retailers will continue to tax any items that exceed \$100 at full price. Taxes on clothing accessories also remain in effect.

As for school supplies, those items remain tax exempt up to \$20 per item, with no limits on the number of school supplies purchased. This exemption also applies to books on school district approved reading lists.

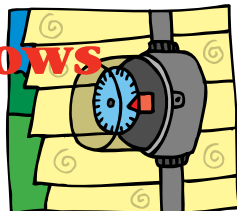
So start making your back-to-school plans now. By preparing in advance, you can save yourself a little agitation, as well as a little money. ⚡



**ELECTRIC  
EXTRAS**



# Prepare Your Windows to Save You Money



The next time you get ready to give your home a seasonal makeover, you may want to think about how changing your window treatments can help you cut your energy costs while adding more variety to your surroundings.

The following types of window treatments enhance your décor, increase your comfort, and reduce the amount of money you spend to cool or heat your homes:

**Draperies.** Draperies with light-colored lining will help reflect heat radiation back outside on hot days. On cold nights, closing heavy drapes can reduce heat loss from a room from 10 to 25 percent, according to energy efficiency experts. To maximize the energy-saving benefits of draperies, you should allow the bottom of your drapes to fall onto the floor or window sill.

**Interior Shutters.** Although they cost more than other window treatments, insulating shutters can reduce heat exchange by as much as 80 percent. The most energy efficient shutters consist of wood panels or plywood, insulation, a vapor barrier, and a decorative covering.

Of course, many consumers prefer less efficient but more visually appealing shutters with stained glass panels.

**Roller Shades.** When properly installed, this commonplace window treatment can provide you with a very effective way of reducing energy costs. A correctly fitted shade will form an insulating layer of air between your room and your windows, and can reduce heat exchange by as much as 20 percent.

**Insulating Panels.** This relatively inexpensive window treatment can reduce heat exchange by as much as 85 percent. You can buy a kit at most home improvement stores, or make your own out of wood panels or rigid insulation. You can also cover them with posters or decorative fabrics to make them a more attractive addition to your home décor.

So take advantage of these and other easy-to-install window treatments the next time you get ready to redecorate your home. You can also get more information on saving energy on the Internet at [www.mariettapower.com](http://www.mariettapower.com). ⚡

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Friday, July 29

*Glover Park Evening Concert Series*  
*Glover Park in Marietta Square*  
*Oldies and Beach music by The Craig Woolard Band*  
8 p.m.

Call (770) 794-5601 for information

### Saturday, August 13

*Pepsi Punt, Pass & Kick*  
Marietta Softball Complex  
Call (770) 794-5604 for information

### Friday, August 19

*Senior Adult Fishing Tournament*  
Laurel Park  
7:30 a.m.  
Call (770) 794-5601 for information

### Saturday, August 27 Symphony Saturday on the Square

Glover Park in Marietta Square  
Free  
7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Call (770) 426-1509 for information

### Friday, August 26

*Glover Park Evening Concert Series*  
*Glover Park in Marietta Square*  
*Motown music by The Neons*  
8 p.m.  
Free  
Call (770) 794-5601 for information

### September 1 through September 29

*Brown Bag Concert Series*  
Glover Park in Marietta Square  
Every Thursday in September  
Noon  
Call (770) 794-5601 for information

### October 1 and 2

*Harvest Square Arts and Crafts Festival*  
Glover Park in Marietta Square  
Free to shoppers  
Call (770) 794-5601 for information